

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-4 and 10-15 were pending. Claims 1, 4, 9-10, and 14-15 have been rewritten, Claims 3-4 cancelled, and Claims 16-28 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Objection to Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure for an informality at page 30, line 12. However, this informality was corrected in the preliminary amendment submitted with the application on August 6, 2003. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection in the next Office Action.

Election requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that no generic claims to the species were present. Applicant again submits that at least rewritten Claim 1 is generic to all species indicated in the Election Requirement of October 10, 2005.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 10-12, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hasagawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0069511) and Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasagawa in view of Sasaki (JP2001-076323). Claims 3-4 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 3 and cancelled Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that pending Claims 1-2 and 10-15 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added Claim 16, which incorporates the elements of Claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant submits that new Claims 16-28 are in condition for allowance.

In addition, as Claim 1 remains generic to all species indicated in the previous Election Requirement, Applicant submits that withdrawn Claims 5-9 should be rejoined and are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AP Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

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